

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENYA PLEDGES \$2 MILLION TO SOUTHERN SUDAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Continuing its long history of brokering peace in Sudan, the government of Kenya will contribute \$2 million (USD) to train Southern Sudan's new civil servants immediately following the January 9, 2011 referendum.

Kenya's pledge of continued assistance comes after Prime Minister Odinga dispatched Kenyan government minister James Orengo to Juba for Sunday's historic referendum, which may result in the birth of an independent Southern Sudan.

Kenya has continuously provided humanitarian, logistical and financial aid to Southern Sudan throughout its humanitarian crisis. From 2002 to 2005, the Kenyan government served as a mediator and guarantor of Southern Sudan's 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended decades of war in Sudan and paved the way for this week's independence referendum. Most recently, Kenya sent 35,000 primary school teachers to the south as well as civil servants to help Juba create a professional civil service. Kenya has also set up eight polling centers in Kenya to allow the over 15,000 Sudanese in the Diaspora in Kenya to vote in the upcoming referendum.

In September, Kenyan President Kibaki held separate discussions with President of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, and Sudan's Second Vice-President Ali Osman Twaha. In a statement following the meetings, President Kibaki "urged the two parties to remain faithful to the contents and spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to ensure its successful implementation...and to ensure it is conducted peacefully as well as to accept the verdict of the process."

Prime Minister Odinga and Acting Foreign Affairs Minister George Saitoti have vowed that Kenya will retain friendly ties with both Khartoum and Juba "regardless of the outcome of the referendum." Saitoti said on Wednesday, the Kenyan government "calls for a peaceful, free and fair referendum," urging the leaders of the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to "preach messages of peace and restraint."

Today Kenya's Ambassador to the U.S., Elkanah Odembo, echoed the comments from Nairobi stating, "the best thing for the region and people of Sudan is a peaceful resolution. Kenya, as with the rest of the international community, is very much encouraged by the visit of President Bashir to Juba and the comments given by President Bashir with regards to the referendum."

To learn more about Kenya's role in Sudan, please visit <http://republicofkenya.org>.

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